

particular, Amstrup discloses a stent comprising filaments 13 connected in a spaced relationship by connections 16 at crossing regions 12 but such connections 16 do not permit converging struts to slide with respect to each other. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that at least claims 21-23 define allowable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

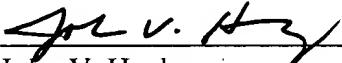
Applicant has attempted to respond to each and every rejection set forth in the outstanding Office Action. In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the application be reconsidered, the claims allowed and the application passed to issue.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP

By:

  
John V. Hanley  
Registration No. 38,171

JVH/kst  
Howard Hughes Center  
6060 Center Drive, Tenth Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90045  
Telephone: (310) 824-5555  
Facsimile: (310) 824-9696  
Customer No. 24201

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please enter amended claims 1, 19 and 20 and substitute the amended claims for the pending claims with the same numbers.

1. (Twice Amended) A medical device, comprising:

a body portion having a first end portion and a second end portion and being defined by a structure including a plurality of pairs of converging struts;  
a first cuff, the first cuff being attached to the first end portion;  
a second cuff, the second cuff being attached to the second end portion;  
at least one shoe device, the shoe being configured at one pair of converging struts [and including a spacing structure that maintains]to maintain the struts in a spaced relationship; and wherein the first and second cuffs and the shoe device provide the medical device with atraumatic surfaces and a streamlined profile.

19. (Twice Amended) A medical device, comprising:

a body portion having a first end portion and a second end portion and being defined by a structure including a plurality of pairs of converging struts;  
a first cuff, the first cuff being attached to the first end portion;  
a second cuff, the second cuff being attached to the second end portion; and  
at least one shoe device, the shoe device being configured at one pair of converging struts [and including a spacing structure that maintains]to maintain in a spaced relationship;

wherein the first and second cuffs provide the medical device with atraumatic surfaces and a streamlined profile.

20. (Twice Amended) A medical device, comprising:  
a body portion having a first end portion and a second end portion and being defined by a structure including a plurality of pairs of converging struts; and  
at least one shoe device, the shoe device being configured at one pair of converging struts [and including a spacing structure that maintains] to maintain the struts in a spaced relationship;  
wherein the shoe device provides the medical device with atraumatic surfaces and structural integrity.

2925.1